

The End of Days

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- * *The End of Days* is based upon the Christian apocalyptic tradition. How would you define this approach to the future?
- * There are three major belief systems about the end times: postmillennialism, premillennialism, and amillennialism. Premillennialism is then divided into two subgroups: dispensational premillennialism and historic premillennialism. How would you explain the basic difference between them? Which view would you consider closest to your perspective? Why?
- * Premillennial scholars point out that there has been an absence in most churches of teaching about the future and the end of time. In what ways do you think this is true? How can there be more focus on this topic?
- * Do you expect a literal earthly era in which Christ reigns for a thousand years at the end of history, or do you see the end times as symbolic or allegorical? What leads you to take one position or another?
- * Explain the rapture of the church. Do you think the Bible foretells a rapture?
- * Some critics believe that teaching the imminent return of Christ tends to undercut Christian social responsibility. If a person is convinced that social conditions will deteriorate until the second coming, why should he or she worry about environmentalism, peacemaking, or combating poverty, racism, and disease?
- * Premillennialists seem to have an ambivalent attitude toward Jews. On one hand, they are seen as crucial in the last days because of the re-establishment of Israel and the rebuilding of the Temple, but on the other hand, Jews must convert to Christianity in order to be saved. How would you assess evangelical Zionism?
- * Premillennialists are often suspicious of international organizations such as the United Nations. Why do they take this attitude? Do you share their misgivings about globalization?
- * How does the dispensational-premillennial view affect one's attitude toward the church and its purpose? Does this seem "cultic" to you?
- * Preachers such as Leonard Sale-Harrison have identified individuals such as Mussolini with the Antichrist predicted in scripture. Why have they taken this position? Discuss whether or not you think there will be such a person. Explore the term as a general way to refer to those groups through the ages who oppose Christianity in an active and often violent manner.